MINK

3

Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP

電脳少女☆
サイバーアイドル
Mink
ミンク
3

電脳少女☆Mink

Volume 3

By
Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP

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WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

電脳少女☆Mink

▶▶▶ Welcome to the World of Cyber Idol Mink ▶▶▶

Mink Shiraishi
She's your normal sweet girl in her second year of middle school.
Mink
This is what Mink transforms into!
Transforms!
CHARACTERS
Motoharu Toriumi
Cyber Idol Mink's manager and secret crush. Still a high school student himself!
Iliiya
A hot rock star who Mink's always idolized.
Azumi Mizuhara
She's a big celebrity and out to sabotage Cyber Idol Mink.
The WANNA-BE software guide.
Kanoka Mariyama
Mahoko Toriumi
These are Mink's friends.

All Mink could think about was her favorite rock stor, Iliiya. When his latest CD came out, Mink and her friends *had* to have it. While they were shopping at the music store, Mink and her friends accidentally bought a different type of CD called WANNA-BE, a software program from the future that allows you to create a virtual character of anyone you ever wanted to be. But when Mink's friends decide to experiment with the new software, they transform Mink into a mega pop star called Cyber Idol Mink! Except there's a catch—using software from the future is a serious crime and everyone involved will be erased! The girls decide never to use it again, but when Motoharu tells them that his father's company will go under unless he finds that mysterious "16" girl—Cyber Idol Mink! With a cloned version of Mink, she's able to go to school and pursue her dreams of superstordom. On top of that, she's the target of total sabotage by "Celebrity Killer Johnny" and the spoiled popstar Azumi!

STORY

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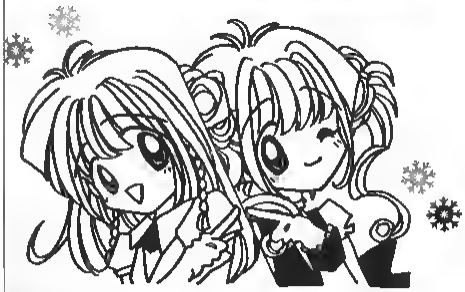
This week's number one new song is "The Lost Mermaid..."
Mink!!!
...in the unique cool style of...
Yeah!



Mink
Is Our Idol Really a Transfer Student?!
Chapter 10

Cool. Cool Cool.
Cool. Cool. Cool.
Cool. Cool Cool.
Cool. Cool. Cool.
Cool. Cool. Cool
Cool Cool. Cool
Cool. Cool Cool.
Cool
Illiya is going to work with us this time, too?!
My oh my!
I don't know how she has the energy to do it!!
This is Om. He's Mink's pet robot and the WANNA-BE guide.
Wowee! Mink's new song is amazing!!
This is Producer and rock star Illiya. He wants to work with Mink.
Most of the time, he's busy as the lead singer of Jagunna.
He's currently on tour
Aww!
Great job, Mink!!
And so...

Hello, this is Mink!
Letting you know my third single is available in stores now!!
Since I used this ingenious software from the future...
...to change into Cyber Idol Mink, everyday has been totally crazy and busy!

Watch out, watch out!
Mink Shiraishi is just a regular middle school student ...
... that's the truth about me.
I.D. Card
Shiraishi Min
Address
Grade
Year
My transformation must remain a secret...
... because ...
No no no, that's not it!
You don't want me to see that you've got pictures of Tokyo in there
It's a student address book?!
AAAAAAGH!!!
Ohmigawd! Don't look at it!!
ばーばーばー
?

That's just the way things are. ☆
Motoharu!
...
Motoharu is my manager ...
...right now, that's all he is to me.
Good, good- you hit all the right notes.
Excellent! ♫
Mink, you just dropped something.
He's my agent exclusively! ♡
Whenever I think about it—I can't believe it! ♡♡

Mo!
!
Yo! It's the three musketeers!
Hey, I haven't made up my mind.
Aren't you on sabbatical?
Wow, this is unusual You're actually showing up for school this morning.
In reality, my agent Motoharu happens to go to the high school near our school.
Mahoko is his younger sister
PAT PAT PAT.
Mink gets it.
So she wouldn't say things like that
Senpai doesn't know
Good morning...
If my secret gets out, I'll be erased! ☆
...Mink!
...using software from the future is a crime.
Good morning.
Idiot, keep your voice down!
Mahoko and Kanoka are my best friends, and the three of us are the only people who know about the WANNA-BE software
I saw you on "Countdown Box" yesterday. ♪
I bet you were nervous
These are my classmates, Mahoko and...
...Kanoka.

Mink Rap!!

Hi, I'm Megumi Tachikawa! This is Mink's third book.

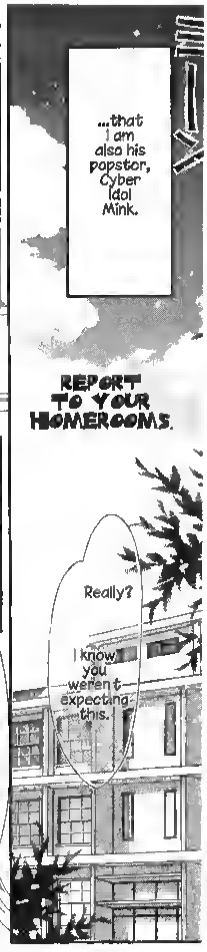
There are a lot of bonus pages in this volume and I'd like to show you stuff about the story's setting. It's at the end so you have something to look forward to!

The rest of the bonus pages are the usual "Question and Answers" that keep me in touch with you. This time there are all types of questions. I've also listed the names of the people who designed the clothes for us. I want to thank them too!

From now on, depending on how I feel, I'm going to write about dramas I've seen recently. Of course, like always, I'll write about the songs I've been listening to while working on Mink.

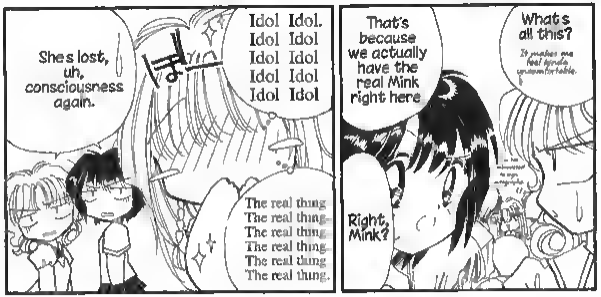
Well, here we go! Back to cyberspace!

Whaaaat?!
My dream someday is to ♡become♡ an idol like Mink.
Really?
No way! She's an idol!
She wants to be like me—er, Mink?! Someone already as cute as her?! For real?!
Huh?
You'll sit next to Miss Shiraishi.
Please help her get used to things here
Teacher
What do I do? What do I do? What do I do? What do I do? What do I do?



I'll lend you mine.
Oh no! I forgot to bring my textbook!
What do I do?
No, I will.
You're so cool, Yuka. Wow! A real popstar in our class!
You're gorgeous like Kashi Sato!
I have to transform. She's not like me. If it weren't for the transformation, I'd never be an idol.
Oh my!
Gosh, I just want to thank you all—Yuka is sooo happy!
Grrrr!
Well, well
Ah
I wonder what Motoharu would think....

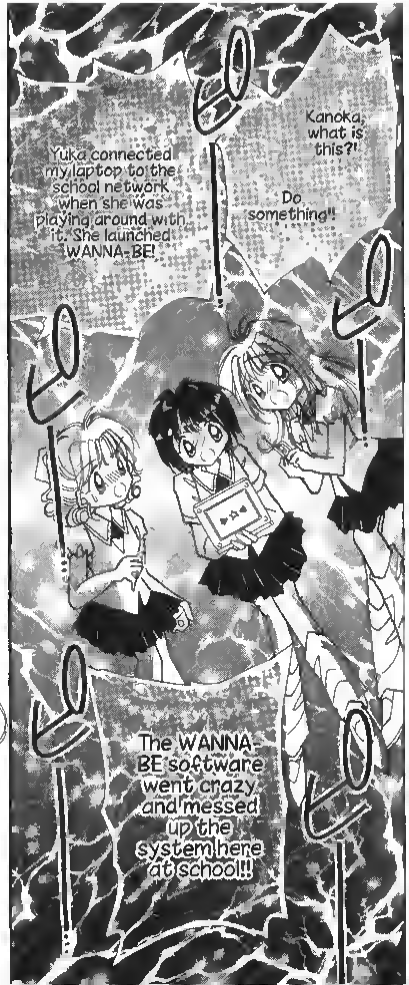
Miss Shirdishi.
Thanks.
Awesome! Awesome!
Do your parents worry about you?
I'm going to have my debut performance soon.
Applaud for me, okay?
Cool! You're really an idol?!
Can I have your autograph?
Me, too?
No, they're cool. They know I have my agency to help me.

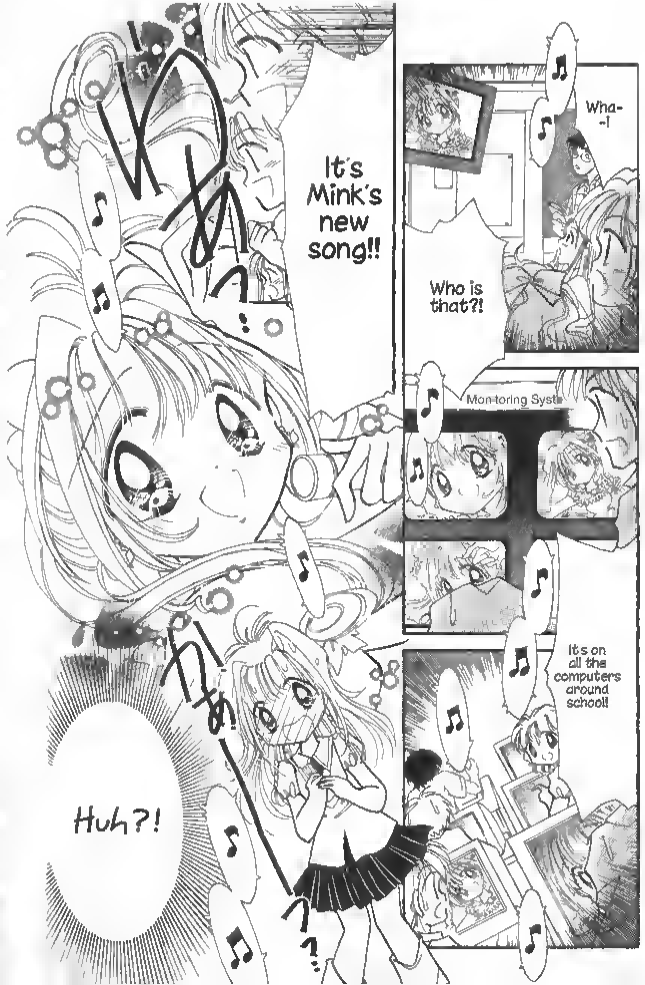

She's lost, uh, consciousness again.
Idol Idol. Idol Idol Idol Idol Idol Idol Idol Idol
The real thing. The real thing. The real thing. The real thing. The real thing. The real thing.
That's because we actually have the real Mink right here
What's all this?
It makes me feel kinda uncomfortable.
Right, Mink?

Sorry, are you in school now?
Mo-Motoharu?!
From the president?!
I'm sorry but I need you to come here quickly. I just got a call from my father!
Ooh!
She acts like such a girly girl. Hey, let's look at Cyber Idol Mink's ☆ homepage.
Kanoka, you're in the middle of class and you're fooling around with your laptop!
Mink!!
I forgot to turn it off. I'm in trouble now.
I'm switching it off ...
No, I'll do it!
I'll do it!
I'll fight it for you.
Fire is really scary!
I said I would.
No, I will.
I'll do it for you!
Ow! I cut my finger with the knife!
Ouch
Leave it up to me!!
Ohhhhhh! Little ol' Yuka just can't understand something like a computer!
Girls in unison
Guys are so predictable

WANNA-BE program in operation
Distinct Name: Mink
Unable to Input
ERROR
ERROR
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Eeeeeww!
What?!
Energy Overflow
Disconnect

Let Yuka touch it, too.
Wow! Is that Cyber Idol Mink's homepage? Cuuuuute!
He says they have an urgent announcement ...
What?!
..it's about Cyber Idol Mink!
No! Don't press that button!!
Whooahh!


Yuka connected my laptop to the school network when she was playing around with it. She launched WANNA-BE!
Kanoka, what is this?!
Do something!!
The WANNA-BE software went crazy and messed up the system here at school!!


It's Mink's new song!!
Huh?!
Wha-!
Who is that?!
Monitoring System
It's on all the computers around school!

I have to go
Om, there's an urgent announcement today...
カンカン
PANT!
Maybe they're gonna fire me?!
Maybe they found out my real identity?
No way!!
Don't say that!
STAND BY!!
"WANNABE"

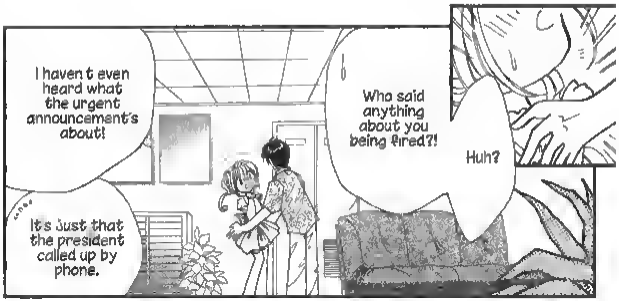
Do something! Anything!!
Come on, network!!
Sleep!!
Thank you!!
I owe you one.
By the way how come ours doesn't turn off?
Is that what the program's supposed to do?
Ours are off
Uh-huh.
we've gotta go soon.
This I can handle
Okay, let me take care of this bug later!!

Set up !!!
WANNA-BE

Motoharu!!
Please don't let them fire me.
I want you to be near me
Bird Music, LLC
I'll do whatever you want even if it's performing on the roof of a department store or in a middle school
.. and I promise not to bother you, so don't--.
I'll sing my songs much, much better...
I'll do my best.
Huh?
Just puh-puh-pleeze don't fire me!
Idol in distress

Mink, you have wings!
Oh, dear!
It probably looks a little like I'm wearing a harness.
Oh whatever
Sorry everyone!
I'll be back!!

Senpai.
...my dad is not going to make any decisions about her career!!
And...
Yeah. It sounds like we're talking about eloping.
You're mine.
I'm the one who discovered Mink!!


I haven't even heard what the urgent announcement's about!
Who said anything about you being fired?!
Huh?
It's just that the president called up by phone.

My father has nothing to do with this!!
It's okay, the two of us can handle it!! I'm here with you.
What?
The way this conversation sounds, doesn't it remind you of something?

...it's Mink! Yuka is sooo excited!!
Oh my...
Excuse me.
とぅまーーん!!
Help me be alone!
Oooh.
Y-Yuka.
Oh...uh...
What's she doing here?!
Who?
Dad?!

You're mine.
Whaaat?
ミンキュリキ
ぽん?
Senpai
I think you're very talented.
So don't cry.
ぽぽぽん!!

Okay, I'm counting on you.
Take care of her and remember your manners.
She's the next big thing!
...Okay, okay. I'll kill...
?
So you're my exclusive agent, right?!
Exclusive ?
What do I do?!
Yes!
Yuka... Akane...?

Awww, Mo. Don't hang up, my son!!
Are you trying to kill me?
Hi! Mo, how are ya?
What?!
I'm a fan of yours
May we take a picture together?
This time your old man has found your next superstar!!
Mo, take good care of her for me!!
Huh?!
Ah-hhh
Just a sec...
Sounds like she's there! Her name is Yuka Akane.

電脳少女★Mink
Chapter 11
Angry Girl

Yuka is going to sign with Bird Music?
Senpai's going to be her exclusive agent?!
I'm so lucky!
I'll work really hard.
So he's going to leave me..?

Mink Rap!!

Q. What should I do when the width of the lines varies whenever I use a "G" pen?

A: That's the way "G" pens are. Sorry I can't put it any differently than that. "G" pens are good for strengthening or weakening lines. The really convenient thing about it is that if you want it to make lines wider, you just have to put some muscle into it. It's kind of up to the individual person where the line becomes thick or thin. By the way, when I'm drawing hair, I don't use a "G" pen because I don't want it to be thick or thin.

Q: What do you do with tone and formatting when you want to add type?

A. I use a kind of sheet known as "tracing paper," and place it over the manuscript. I add type to the areas you want by placing the tracing paper over those spots. Then, an editor will add them for me.

Q. When you draw characters with sad faces, does your face take on a sad expression, too?

A: It does!! When I draw a crying face, I tear up and cry—that's the truth!

This autumn, there's just a hint of girl power...
...in our new autumn-toned "Parfait Series."
Peach Pink.
Apricot Orange.
Raspberry Red.

I'm No.1
Since I'm so awesome and all, why the heck is Mink doing the finale?
?
Azumi!!
Woo hoo!
...after all, I, Azumi Mizuhara, am here!!
Why are you taping this?
What a waste
Oh. I'm not used to putting on lipstick.
How embarrassing.
Senpai!!
Did you watch the taping?

azumi
mink
yuka
PALFAIT

Great job, everyone!
Okay, you look great, all three of you!
This is going to be a super commercial!
It'll also make a great poster
That's no surprise, because...

What?
Ha ha ha!
That does suit you, doesn't it?
I bet pink brings out my color.
I read that somewhere
I wanna change the subject
And if this is what Senpai wants...
...it's not a big deal to put on a little more...
Really, sir? Thank you so much!!
Ha ha ha!
Isn't she great, that Yuka? She's new to the set, but she already has that glow!!
And we didn't even ask you!

Besides..
...I can't eat steamed pork buns like this.
Steamed pork buns?
That's what you're thinking about?! Even though you're already an idol?!
An idol who eats from street vendors?
Ha ha ha!
...it's like I feel embarrassed when people look at it, I mean...
It feels like you're not yourself when you wear lipstick. I mean I become really self-conscious about my lips...
...that's...
What am I saying?
What am I saying?
I must seem overly self conscious about this

...you're treating Yuka just like you treated me...
Senpai
I get it. I see it now.

It's Motoharu I have to worry about.
Wasn't he supposed to be your exclusive agent?

Azumi?!
Hmph. A role model, huh?
Well, she's just like you.
She's no match for me!

We picture her to be someone like Mink's little sister. That's how we're promoting her.
You don't say.
So she's a fan of Mink's?
Thank you so much for your support. ♡

Really? So they're your role models?
Yes, sir!
Yes, sir. I really like Mink and Azumi. I am totally into them!!

...thanks in advance for... ...your help...
My name is Mink...
Senpai...
...He did the same thing at my debut.
Hey, remember to bow your head.
Yes, and I would greatly appreciate your support.
Oww!
PAT
THE TSUMP

Mink Rap!!

Q: How do you make pictures in the middle of an inset look transparent?

A. By using white tone. I don't know what the official name of it is. It's a tone made from printing with white ink. This works because usually I draw with black ink so when I add white tone, a white pattern overlaps the black to make it look transparent.

Q: Who do you like best out of the V6?

A. "Inotchi!" Definitely Inohara. If only he were my younger brother... I'd totally take him to see baseball games and stuff. By the way, I also think Kusanagi of S.M.A.P. and Yamaguchi of TOKIO are cool. As for Arashi, sorry but, I'm still not sure. Someone tell me more about them!!

He never made me that promise.
He's my exclusive agent--who would've thought?
Hey! What's this?
Ooooh, looks like this is gonna get interesting!
The cover photo on "Lagoon" rocked!
Yuka.
I'm gonna buy it, too.
Huh?
This photo spread of Yuka Akane is hot, isn't it? ♡
Duh! Haven't you heard of her?!
Did ya see "What's On" yesterday?
You mean Yuka Akane? I saw, I saw!

He's...
...doing all this for Yuka.
Ah...um... sure. I'll be fine by myself.
S-Senpai?
Are you going to...
...be Yuka's agent exclusively?

Where am I...?
Ugh! You got lost?
No sense of direction.
Okay.
I'll come get you.
Stay right where you are, okay?
Motoharu?
Toriumi, I'm lost!
Mink, can you do me a favor and go on ahead to the TV station?
I'll definitely be there later.
He works so hard...
...and he's so gentle.

...now it's all about Yuka!!
I'm...
...fine, but...
Look, I'll teach you.
Awww, really?
BIRDS CAFE
Mo is just being Mo.
Mink, cheer up!
Strawberry's your favorite!
That's right, Mink.
No!! Mahoko!!
Motoharu is just tired.
I'll kick his butt!
Leave it to me

Of course not.
What is she talking about?
Okay!
Ciao!
Yuka, where are you?! The location bus is on its way, you know!
How did you over-sleep?!
I was worrying too much about nothing
I better snap out of it
...you're already booked up that day.
What do you mean you have to do a make-up test?!
I don't understand...
It hurts, Toriumi!
Is it true that Yuka fell?!

Mink?
.....
Uh-huh, it's okay.
Yuka will be helpless by herself.
You should be there for her.
I'm totally...
...fine.
Mink!
I have to go!!
Mink!!

Hey, Motoharu!
I'm going to work so hard today.
What?!
It's okay
I'm meeting Motoharu at the TV station today.
We'll be together all day.
Sorry, I can't make it today!
Yuka didn't feel well at the filming location.
You'll be okay on your own at today's taping...
Mink, you can do it, right?!

Pink really compliments your complexion
...i'm good. I am.
Even if Senpai...
I'm fine.
even if Senpai isn't there.
I'm totally okay
But, please...
STORAGE ROOM
...show a little more spirit!
Pink lipstick! Lend me some of your energy!
WANNA-BE
STAND BY!
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
LAUNCH!!!

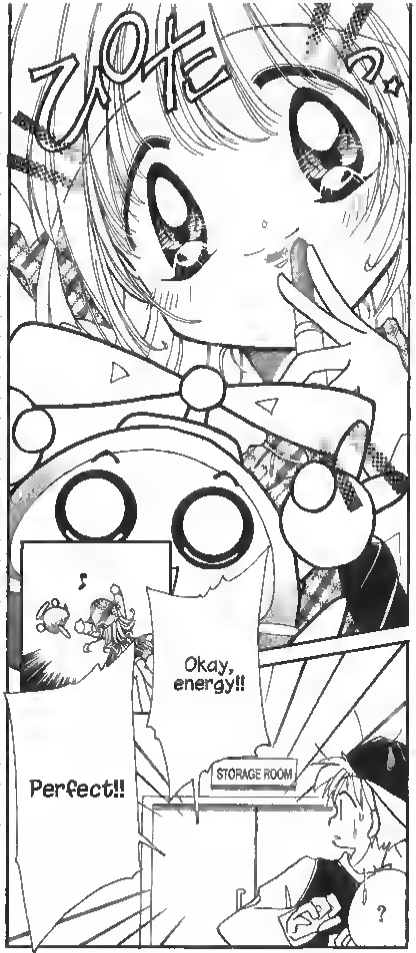
Mink Rap!!

Q: If the earth was about to be destroyed, what would you take with you during your escape?

A: I would definitely want my family with me if I was escaping. After all, I really don't like being alone. But if I had to choose anything materialistic, I'd probably choose my glasses or contacts. If I didn't have these, I just wouldn't be able to live! Right now, both eyes are really bad.

Q: Have you ever been to another country?

A: I've been to Hawaii once. Other than that, no. I wouldn't mind going somewhere though. I'd like to see the midnight sun in the northern countries. I'd like to see the wild flowers in Australia. But you know, I don't have any interest in things like gourmet dining and shopping.



I drank too much of something cold.
My head
WHAT?!
Ouww!
What do you think you're doing?!
You just hit a pop idol over her head!
Shuddup!!
I suppose someday you will be an idol, but you aren't one yet!!
Yuka...!
...are you all right?!
I'm all better.

Now, which studio is Mink in?
A separate building?
Our next appearance is by Mink!
That's me!
Oh, hello!
This month, we're going to hear the B-side of your new hit single, aren't we?
Yeah, it's awesome! The song is called "Darling Heart."
Yes, and I'm actually wearing the new lipstick today. But make-up makes me feel a little self-conscious...
This song is the same one playing on the new lipstick commercial you appear in, isn't that right?
Once again, Iliya your producer ...
UM...
Ahh...
...the lipstick, too.
Ohhh. You don't show it, how cute...
As for you, Mink, is there anyone you'd like to see?

It's my job to use all my energy to look after you guys...
.. but...
Okay, enough!!
...at the very least, you should look after your health yourself!
Got it?!
.....

That really suits you.
Now...
...there isn't someone like that...
...here.
Motoharu?
WHAT?
Fool!
Wha-

Okay, get ready to stond-by.
1
2
1
2
3
You ask about someone I'd like to see...
Not a chance.

Whoa!
Look! On the lense!
KYUUUUUU
Transmission
What do you know..
Now I gotta pay for the damage of the camera!
This is bad Did she take the lipstick..
She did it! Go, Mink!
Motoharu!
She did it!
That idiot!
Why am I mad?

Yuka...
...made a guy angry at her.
For the first time.
What's with her?
That's the first time.
You...you look up to Mink, don't you?
Hey!
Oh? You didn't know? Actually, I've been ...
... secretly helping them.
Huh?! So you mean the two of them are seeing each other?!
TOUR 2000
JAGUANA
Then you know that Illiya is away on tour?
Ah, yes.
Well, Mink is really sad, y know.
That's why she did that to the camera.

JAGUANA
What's with you?
Space case!
Did he really mean "when you become an idol?"
This lipstick...
...is really me?
Did you broadcast it?
Did they notice?

WANNA-BE
COMPACT DISC
MACINTOSH & WINDOWS
電脳少女★Mink
Chapter 12
Beware of Scandals!

Sooo, to make sure Mink and Iliya are happy...
...let's work together to help their relationship along!
Oh, yes!
It's my big chance to sabotage Mink again
to come between Mink and her manager
I can use this dumb kid

It's so sad about Mink and Illiya.
I am going to break up Mink and that manager of hers!
This is my chance to sabotage Mink!
There's nothing but heartache when two celebrities fall in love.
I'd like you to be Mink's true friend.
!

Q: Did you ever want to become a pop idol?

A: I did idolize them and liked to imitate their singing and moves. In elementary school, my friends and I used to imitate Candies and Pink Lady. Then, in high school we formed a band and did cover songs on Seiko Matsuda hits. I didn't sing vocals, I only played the keyboard. But, I never wanted to do it seriously. You see, I'm just way too shy to perform in front of other people!

Q: Is there someone you used as a model for Mink, Azumi or Yuka?

A: They aren't modelled after anyone real, but there are actual performers whose image I borrowed when I created my characters.

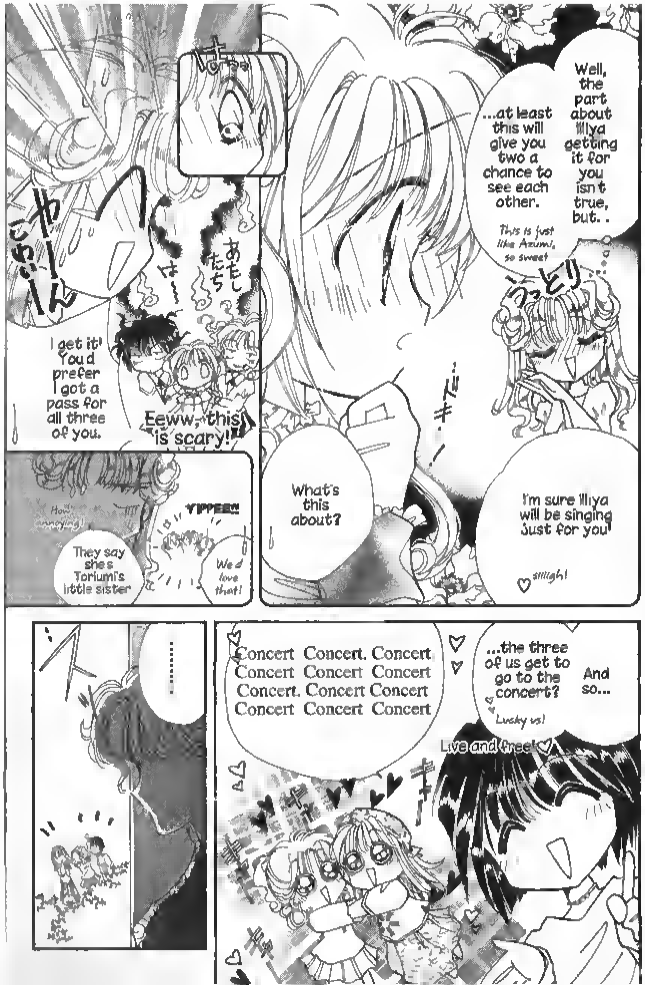
Mink is inspired by Vivian Sou.
Azumi is inspired by Kanako Enomoto. Yuka is inspired by Hiroko Anzai.

And also:
Motoharu is inspired by Inohara of V6. Illiya is inspired by Hyde of Lark. Johhny Hotta is inspired by Tadanori Jinnai.

The only thing they have in common is the way they look!

What do you think?
Do you really want to make something out of this Mink scandal?!
What can I say?
People still confide in Johnny Hotta... number one gossip columnist.
...to get her out of the entertainment industry.
I'll pay you whatever it takes...
You're a woman who goes after what she wants.
Tak...you're the last person I want to hear that from.

Boy, she sure is easy to fool.
Azumi, you are a really good person!
Yuka is so excited!
Okay!
This is soo beautiful!
Yuka loves this kind ♡ of ♡ thing!
I have something I want to tell you.
See you later!
I bet Mink will be really happy!
I got it! Leave everything to me!
Don't say things that make a person feel bad.
It looks like you're up to something.
When I get a call from a super idol, come. No questions asked.


I get it! I'd prefer I got a pass for all three of you.
Eeww, this is scary!
Well, the part about Iliya getting it for you isn't true, but..
...at least this will give you two a chance to see each other.
This is just like Azumi, so sweet
What's this about?
I'm sure Iliya will be singing just for you!
♡sniff!
How annoying!
They say she's Toriumi's little sister
YIPPEE!!
We'd love that!
.....
Concert Concert Concert
Concert Concert Concert
Concert Concert Concert
Concert Concert Concert
...the three of us get to go to the concert?
And so...
Lucky us!
Live and free!♡

I'm sure the two of us will get there...
Hurry, Mink, hurry! You'll be late for the opening curtain.
...no matter what!
You're in too much of a hurry
A ticket for Jaguna's final show?
What's that?
I think I'm getting
About me...?
serious about you.
Iliya said that?!
Yep. That guy from Tokyo, Iliya, says he definitely wants Mink to come.

Mink Rap!!

Costume Design Contributors
First of all, here's the list of designers in Volume 2
Yumiko Tanaka of Hyogo Prefecture
I forget to mention you in Volume 2. Please accept my apologies!

Title page of Chapter 10
Chiemi Kamata, Hokkaido

Yuka's clothes in Chapter 10
Yoko Kono, Saitama Prefecture

Mink's stage clothes in Chapter 10
Rie Ishibashi, Hokkaido.

Mink's stage clothes in Chapter 11
Kibou Tokumei, Tokyo

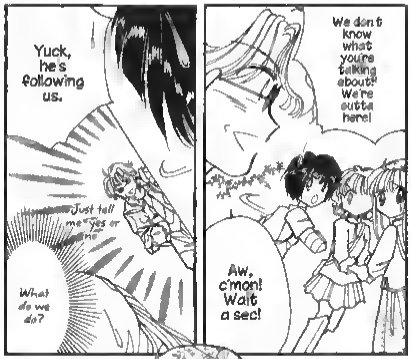
Mink's clothes in Chapter 12
Aki Nagasu, Tokyo.

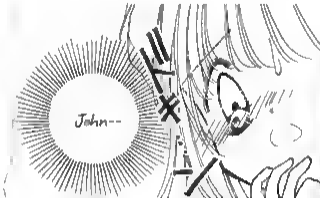
Title page of Chapter 13
Temee Shimada, Toyama Prefecture

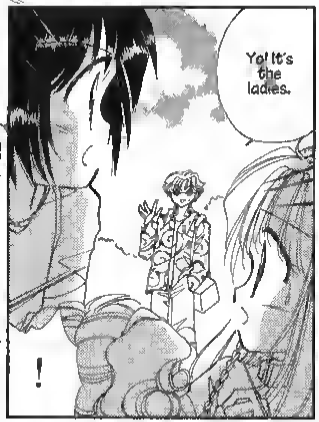
Mink's stage clothes in Chapter 13
Kriko Makan Chiba Prefecture

Mink's party clothes in Chapter 14
Sachiko Taniguchi, Wakayama Prefecture

Everyone, everyone Thank you!
There are some details I've changed for convenience only, but it's good just having you think of me!


Yuck, he's following us.
Just tell me yes or no
What do we do?
We don't know what you're talking about! We're outta here!
Aw, c'mon! Wait a sec!





Yes, but is there something you want?
I suppose you little ones are Mink's friends?
Let me guess, you're going to the Jagunna concert now, aren't you?

What? Jagunna?
No! Mink has to go to Jagunna's concert now!
So you can't schedule a job for her now.
Yes, Illya himself invited her.
It's the first time they'll get to see each other in a long time...
...you shouldn't come between them.
So that was a real kiss on the set.
Illya?!
I wanted Mink to kiss me.
Look at what we have here.
That's not good, Toriumi!
What?!
Bird Music, LLC

Hello, Mink?
Hate to bother you, but a job just came in from TVR so would you come right over, please?
Motoharu!
B-b-but we just got concert tickets!!
Aaaagh! A job?!
I can't transform or anything right now
They might find out my true identity.

ミキハ
Oh! It's almost time for work!
I must've dropped it somewhere.
It's not about revealing my true identity at this point. Now I've lost the ability to transform!
My cell.
...maybe someone picked it up for you!
Try calling from my cell...
Come on, let's hurry!!
!!
RRRR
Hello?
Yo.
ミキハ
CHIRRING
CHIRRING
CHIRRING

I had no idea about. .
But you have me, so it shouldn't matter to you, right?
Eeww! I can't believe I said that.
Gosh! That is so Yuka
...Mink and Iliya.
Johnny Hotta...
...won't be able to see you transform in here, Mink.
Sure. Wait!
No way! I can't find my cell!
It's not there?!
Stubborn fool!!

Will he forget me?
He'd probably be fine with Yuka, wouldn't he?
He wouldn't even notice me if I wasn't Cyber Idol Mink.
It's no good if I can't be Cyber Idol Mink!
I'm invisible to him even though I'm right here
What are you saying?
Well, he only knows me as "Mink Shirarishi!"

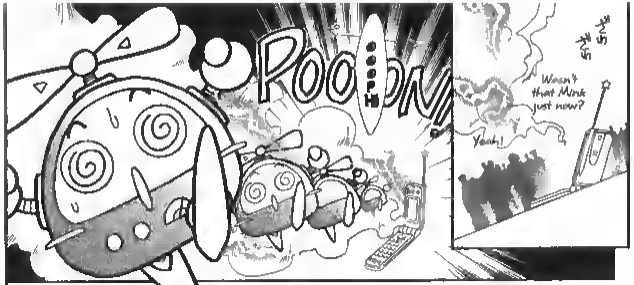
Johnny Hotta?!
You dropped your cell, didn't you?
Who is this?
Is this the little sister of talent agent, Torumi? Or the girl with long hair?
This is the worst!!
I'll return this if you tell me...
...any information about Mink!!
How...
...could he...
If...
If I don't get my cell phone back...
...that's the end of Cyber Idol Mink...
...and the end of my relationship with Motoharu.

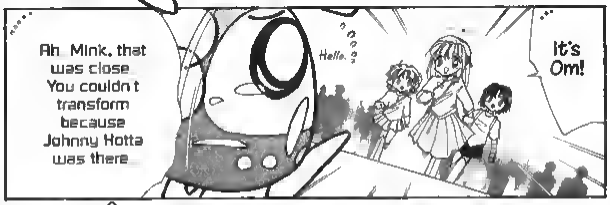
Thanks, guys.
Yes!
Come on, "NETWORK"!!
And now...
...I'm going to stop my whimpering!
Beep
Beep
Beep
CLONE!!!
CLOW

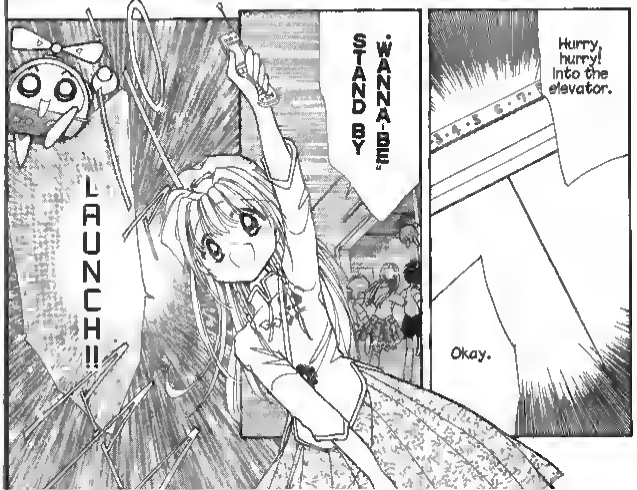
That's right-- without your card, transforming may be impossible, but...
...you might be able to do it from my PC!!
That's right!! Kanoka is really thinking clearly today.
Kanoka, Mahoko
Mink! Don't give up yet!
I'm always thinking clearly!
That idol is a fake
She's not the one who's really there for you
Oh, Senpai!

Come over here, you!!
That's him. Arrest him!
Wait, you've got the wrong man!
There, there
I didn't do anything!
!!
What a perv!
Creepy dude!
Freak!
Loser!
That guy over there is a pervert!!

You...
...tease!
I caught you!!
Who the heck are you?!
Aaahhh!!
Per-vert! Somebody he-lp me, he's a per-vert!!


Poooow!
Wasn't that Mink just now?
Yeah!


Ah, Mink, that was close. You couldn't transform because Johnny Hotta was there.
Hello?
It's Om!


"WANNA-BE" STAND BY
LAUNCH!!
Hurry, hurry! Into the elevator.
Okay.

GAME OVER
Bye. Bye.
You'll pay for this!!
Let go of me!
Do you know who I am?!

You go, girl!!
Go for it!
You can still get there in time
Is that Mink?!
Where?! Where?!
Senpai!
Sorry, I'm late.
Look! Its Mine!
Wow!
I'm ready to go on!!
I knew she'd show up.
There she is!

Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep

Encooore
Illiya!
Is Mink here?
Yeah, she is.
Encore!!
I wonder if Yuka said something that made her turn the tickets down?
That girl is useless to me
Time for your encore!
It's strange, isn't it?
Azumi, was Mink here?
I wonder what happened...
...she said she would come to today's performance just to see you.
She did?
We finally got the green light from the president!
Remember Real Records?
Illiya, I've got some big news for you!!

Illiya!
Illiya! Encore!
Illiya, beautiful job, man. By the way, have you seen Mink?

Okay, I'm coming out for the encore!
.....
The Illiya label
That's incredible news!!
Sorry I'm late, guys!!

I can do a lot of cool things with the Illiya label!!

It's time, Illiya!
Let's start scheduling some auditions!
The Illiya label?!

Illiya?!
We did it!
We'll sell the artists that you've molded throughout Japan, make that throughout the world!
This project will be your debut as Producer Illiya.

B-b-but...
If only I could tell him the truth.
I am so sorry...
something came up.
Yeah, like the Jagunna concert?
Wrong!
You went to the concert...
...to meet Illiya, right?
That's wrong, Motoharu.

Senpai...
Oooh
MOUNT?
The Job's already done. I had Yuka fill in for you.
What?!
Mink, don't worry, okay?
What did you soy?!
What were you thinking?
You left me with a big gap in the schedule.
And you didn't even give me any warning
I can't tell him that I lost my cell phone and couldn't transform in time

...you didn't get this angry at her!!
When Yuka was late...
Senpai!
Why do you only get angry at me?!
You just don't get it!!

You care more about Iliya...
...than your fans and the Job!
No, of course not!
Then, why weren't you here?!
What?
...what if I were to tell you ..
Because of you...
But...
I can't tell.

Mink Rap!!

Dramas I have seen
"Daisuke Hanamura"
"Once Bitten, Twice Shy"
"Bus Stop"
"Yamato-nadeshi-ko"

"Editing King"
"The Right Word Is Courage"
"Friends"

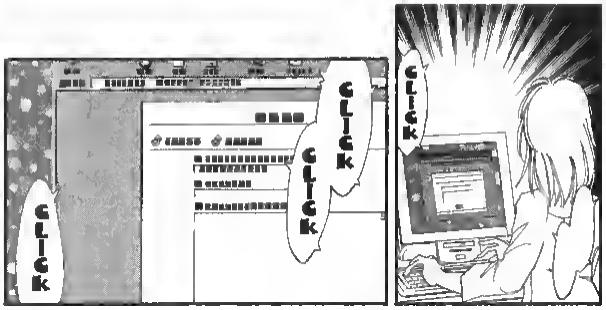
Special dramas I love
"Team Special"
"Daisuke Hanamura Special"
"Legend of a Hundred Years"

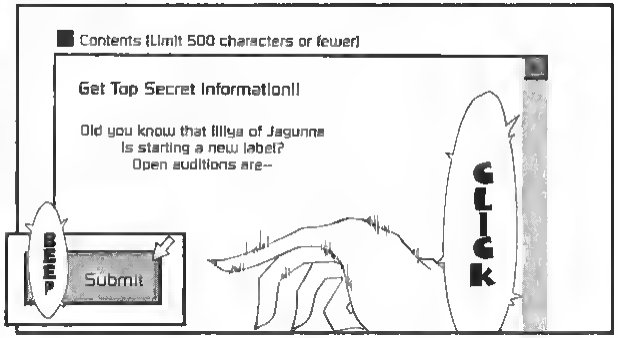
I want to see "Daisuke Hanamura" and "Editing King" again!!

I love Yusuke Santa Maria and Taizou Harada of Nepu Also, Nanako Matsushima is someone I think is amazing. She made me laugh in "Yamato-nadeshi-ko!" And I cried in "Legend of a Hundred Years," but Mitsurou Watabe made me cry the most. Personally, I like the brutal scenes in Kouki Mitani's screenplays.

My Favorite Books
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
Isolin, the Thirteenth Persona by Yusuke Kishi
Level 7 by Miyuki Miyabe
White-Out by Yuichiro Shinbo
Pencil Rocket Opera by Mayumi Nagane
Colorful by Eto Mori

Yeah, I saw that headline about the Illiya label.
Hey, did you see this?
Good luck, girl.
It'll be pointless
Maybe I'll audition for it!
Really?!
It says he's going to find his own talent.
They'll probably be based in L.A., right?!
Why?
No way!
They've already chosen the winners. That's the ☆ rumor, anyway.
Of course it's decided!! Illiya already has the most sought-after girl!


CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

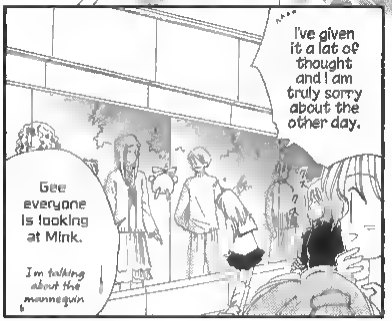

Contents (Limit 500 characters or fewer)
Get Top Secret Information!!
Did you know that Illiya of Jagunna is starting a new label? Open auditions are--
BEEP
Submit
CLICK

Nah, I should probably apologize a little more seriously than that.
Especially knowing Motoharu.
No, it is I who should apologize

Oh, Senpai, I'm sorry about the other day!!
HA HA HA HA!
So, we're cool now?
Are you still angry at me?
I'm so silly!
Tee hee!

This sher-
It's Mink, of course!!
Senpai-!!

Okay, let's make things a little cheerier.
What? Om, am I making you a little teary-eyed?
She's in another world.
wasn't involving me.


I've given it a lot of thought and I am truly sorry about the other day.
Gee everyone is looking at Mink.
I'm talking about the mannequin

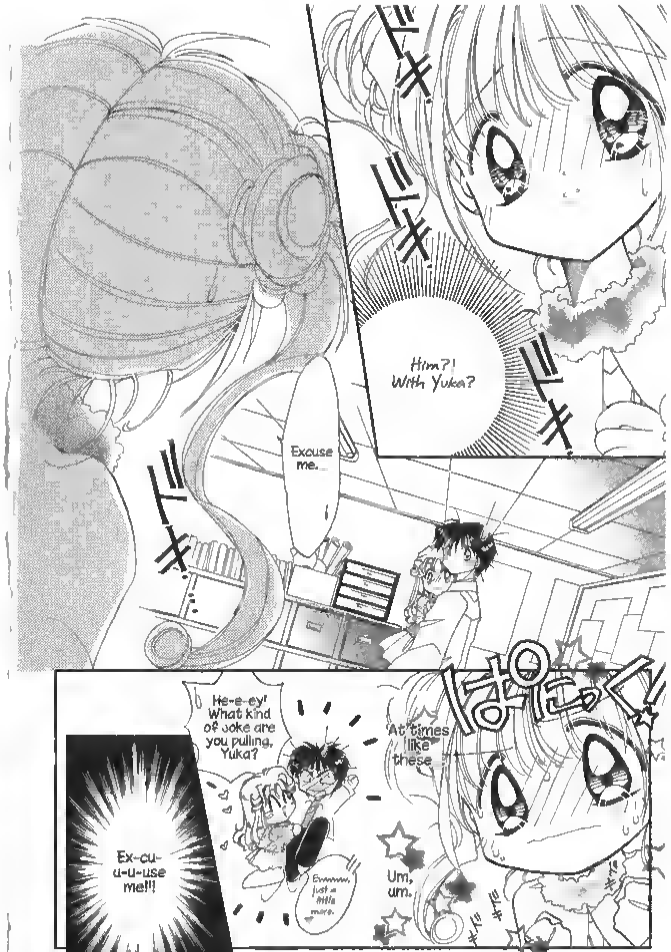
The Illiya label?!
Mink
SOLD OUT
Mink in Wonderland
10/28 (Tues) — 10/29 (Sun) Haku-Yoh Arena

RRR
RRR
RRR
First this anonymous phone call, now an anonymous fax!
In Mink's city. Questions about the move.
It's probably just a crank call...
RRR
RRR
Mink is switching management companies?! What the—?

Bird Music, LLC
LD OUT
Senpai...
He'll give me a little smile like always, and then...
...I want to mend things between us as soon as possible.
...I'm not angry anymore. Let's both of us try again.
Yes, Senpai.
And so it continues
Yes, Senpai
Yes, Senpai
Yes, Senpai
Yes, Senpai
Yes, Senpai
What am I thinking?! What am I thinking?!
What should I do?

But you'll always have me, Motoharu.
Huh ...
Senpai.
I am sorry!!

Breathe! In, out, in, out!
Senpai, I'm sorry. Um, Senpai, I am so sorry.
Delivery is important!!
Taking a deep breath
Here goes.
Once I get through this, he'll always be there for me.
It won't be any different from now on...
Things will stay just as they've been.
You must be concerned about Mink...?
Tohjuro, you look so down.
What about Illiya's people...
I'm not holding Mink to it!
...won't they let her remain a free agent?
And... also...


ミキ
ミキ
ミキ
Him?! With Yuka?
Excuse me...
At times like these
He-e-ey! What kind of joke are you pulling, Yuka?
Ex-cu-u-u-use me!!!
Um, um.
Hmmm, just a little more.

Cut it out! Off of me!
Hey?!
It's like returning the invitation he gave you to his show. How romantic!
♡ Right, Toriumi?
Let's explain this!! This is also one of Azumi's hands-off touches!!
That's right, Mink...
...you're inviting Illiya to the arena concert I suppose?!
ミキ
No, who did this...

I'm sure Bird Music is considered small and weak, but...
I thought you once said our fates were entwined
Why do you believe what Yuka says over what I say?!
I DON'T KNOW!!
From now on, I...
...may have sealed things with Senpai
I wanted to be helpful to him...
He was happy for me
ALL THIS, SO WHY THE CHANGE????

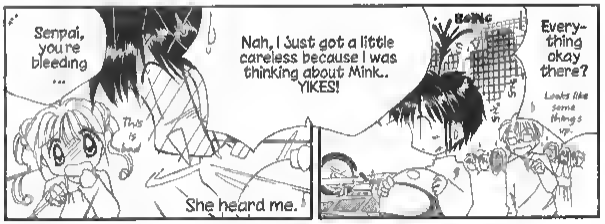
What?!
Are you getting ready to go to Iliya's?
?
Listen to what someone says to you!!
Hey, Mink's blushing.
Cute
Changing offices!! How far have these negotiations gone?!
The focus of the Iliya label is Mink.
I'M NOT LISTENING!!
I don't know... what about that Iliya Label?
What's with this?

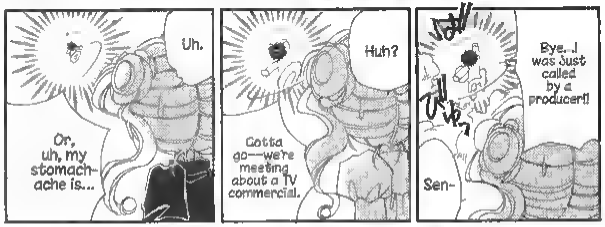
Songs I've been listening to...

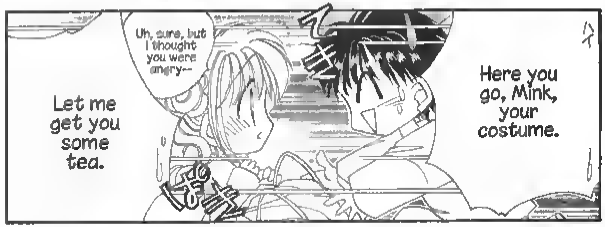
First, singles
Tears, by Fayray
Love 2000 and Kimi Ni Kiss, by Hitomi
Fall Again, by Triceratops
Ahh—That's Good, by Hana hana
Get U're Dream, by ZARD
Wait & See Risk, by Hikaru Utada
Realize?!/ Asakusa Angel, by KAB
Amusement Park, by Ken Hirai

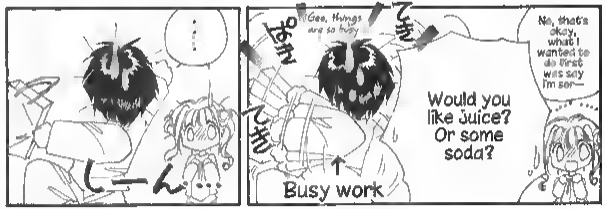
These are the albums
Duty, by Ayumi Hamasaki
Sun, by Noriyuki Makihara
Dark Ocean, by Toko Fureuchi
Rapunzel, by Cocco
Delicious Way, by Mai Kuraki
Individualism, by Kazumasa Oda

Makihara is like being welcomed home When I heard "Ordinary Days," tears came to my eyes. It really was like coming home. So, you could say it was really awesome. The song by KAB is kinda like Motoharu's anthem. That's all. You really should listen to these


Senpai, you're bleeding...
This is...
Nah, I just got a little careless because I was thinking about Mink.. YIKES!
She heard me.
BOING
Everything okay there?
Looks like some things up.






...
Shiin...
Busy work
Gee, things are so busy
Would you like juice? Or some soda?
No, that's okay, what I wanted to do first was say I'm sor—

VTR
On my stage!
No matter what, she stays upbeat lately.
Looks like fun
Need to ask you one thing.
And I've made sure Illiya got tickets.
Today's the start of her concert booking, isn't it?
Why, I don't know what you're...
No pretending. It was you.
Can't really say.
Coming!
Aw come on! All me you and me are tight honey
Azumi we need you here.
And I DO mean "bye."
BAM
Oooh, recording is beginning. Today, Yuka and Illiya are going ta be with me.
☆ Bye
The posts on the Internet about the Illiya Label... that was you, wasn't it?
What? Some quick follow-up on Mink?

Well...
...you will be the Alice confused in the maze on stage.
...confused"?
Did she actually say that?
I see, so...
To play with the Wonderland theme, they've recreated Alice's world.
Mink
Here we are
...this time bringing you Mink's first arena concert.
Yeaahhhh, how do you suppose our little Alice is going to get out of this one?...
Hmmm?
Yep, however you want to put it.
There's no making up now.
HUFF
It's a wrap! ☆
On my stage! ♡♡
We'll have "performances" just as good as that one...

Mink!!
As for who is caught in the maze, we are all Alice!
I've got to roll.
Come on Music!
Everyone is waiting for me
Even though this is a maze.

Where's Motoharu?
He's not here yet even though it's almost time for the show...
...like you always do
...and boost my confidence...
Please, hurry...
As soon as Yuka's session is over I'll come right over to you.
It is the maze called a "stage."
Here is the maze.
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Wonderland.
He'll definitely show up
so cheer up!

I'm sorry, I really have to go.
Time's up.
I have to go. There's a place I have to be.
Miya, here's my key.
This is his manager, Miyada.
Y-y-yes, sir?!
If we tear out, we'll still make it in time!
!!
Ah!
Ah!
Ah

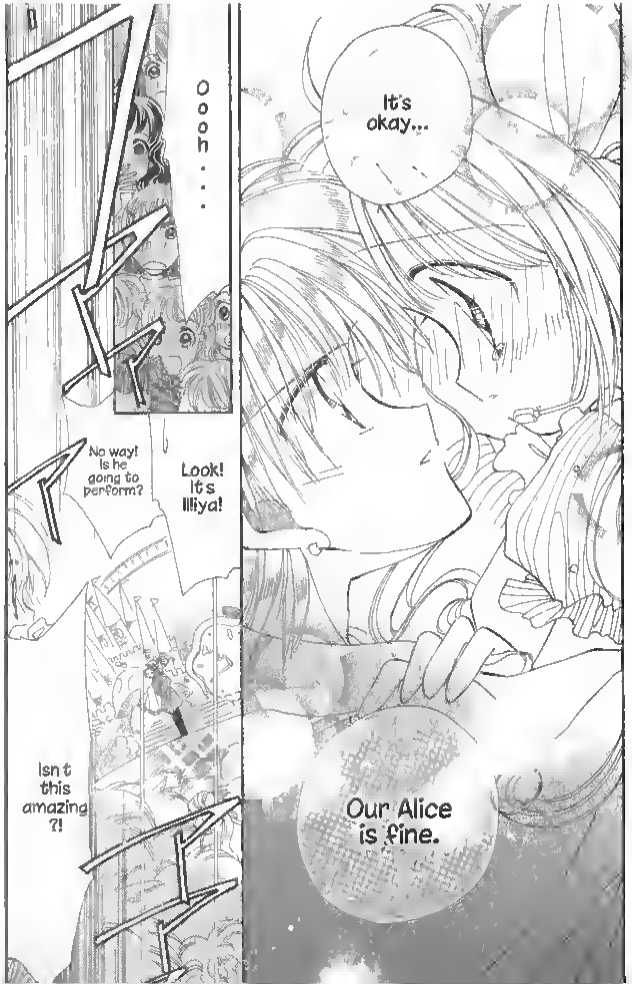
Well...
Here's the entrance to Wonderland.
...not around?!
Well...
For Mink's sake maybe...
...it would be better..
.....
...if I'm.
She'll be able to stretch her wings more with Illiya.
I shouldn't hold Mink back
Just as I thought, Illiya really cares about Mink.
It's so sweet

Ah!
We've floated on waves of Moon Sherbert.
CREAK
!!

DRINK ME
Across the Seven Seas and the Twelve Constellations...
...with the March Hare and the Army of Cards!...
...we're going in!
Sherry and Black Tea.
Shall we begin the Tea Party?
Honey Apple Pie.

...HELP...!!!
Does he value Yuka more?
Uh-oh.
I'm falling...
Did he forget about me
...because he has Yuka?

I'm going to fall.
This is bad. Do something!
Agh!
I am following the rabbit
...down to the bottom of the rabbit hole, through the maze
Senpai, why aren't you here?!
Mink!


Oooh...
No way! Is he going to perform?
Look! It's Illiya!
Isn't this amazing?!
It's okay...
Our Alice is fine.

Ah...
Il...
...lliya...?

The two of them ...
Iliya is the one grooming her.
It's him.
Hey?
Afterall, it makes sense.
...are also seeing each other.
...it's like the rumors...

That was scary.
The one who rescued me isn't...
Oooh...
...the life-size doll in the store, or...
SNIFF
SNIFF
...the one whose photo is in my wallet.

What did you say to each other afterward? Any deep secrets?
Hmmmm, well, it's almost time for me to transform.
It must have been like a dream come true. Sigh.
How did it feel to be rescued by an all-around performer live and on-stage?

Chapter 14

Last Christmas

Tonight Illiya is hosting a holiday party at this hotel
Set Up !!
STAND BY "WANNA BE"
WANNA
COMPACT DISC

Garuda Illiya Label
...should I really even go?
And now...
Tonight we are here for the birth of GIL, the Garuda Illiya Label...
And we would like to make an announcement to all of you.
Garuda
eeeeeeeeeHH

Especially after what happened the other day.
There will be a lot of talking about my switching record labels.
I won't be able to make up with Senpai this way.
Come to think of it, with this party tonight

They're also holding a press conference to introduce the staff of the new label.

As employees of Bird Music, we've also been invited
GIL

Tonight is going to rock!!
It'll be full of ♡ celebrities ♡
Colored paper

Well, I'm aware of the rumors, and I must say...
No! The press conference is already beginning.
Hurry!
...I would absolutely love for Mink...
...to come with me!
Oh...
Huh?

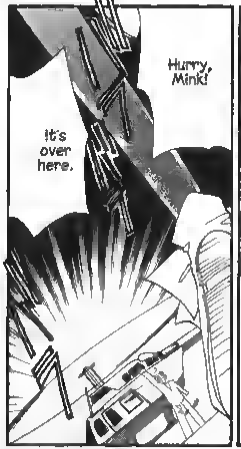
Garuda Illiya Label
Is it true that opening auditions were cancelled...
...because you're bringing Mink to Los Angeles?
Can you tell us about some of your concrete plans?
Is it true that you will be recording in Los Angeles?
Mo-I mean, Mr. Toriumi, you look great in that suit.
I guess the rumor WAS true
Uh...
Lovely, lovely.

Would you stand a little closer?
Now will you tell us whether you're romantically involved?
It's true, isn't it?
I think I'd better—
Wr-wrong
...not be here.
Is this going to mark Mink's debut across America?
Hey, back off, too close!!

Oops, my hand just slipped.
?!

What IS all this?!
Mink, is this your plan?
So it's decided then, about switching labels?
What is going on here?!
Please quiet down, please back away!!
Probably because it's hard working for a small, weak company with lots of debt, right?!
What ??
Let's get a shot of you standing next to Illiya.
Right?

You'll have to knock me over if you want to get to Mink.
Out.
Jeez...


Hurry, Mink!
It's over here.

If you want it, you got it.
You're going to make me repeat myself?
I've got pepper spray.
And I'm not afraid to use it!

Motoharu?!
Really?
There's a helicopter waiting for you on the roof.
Kawd just like the movies, isn't it?
Caught!
How long have you been seeing each other?
We can escape this insanity.

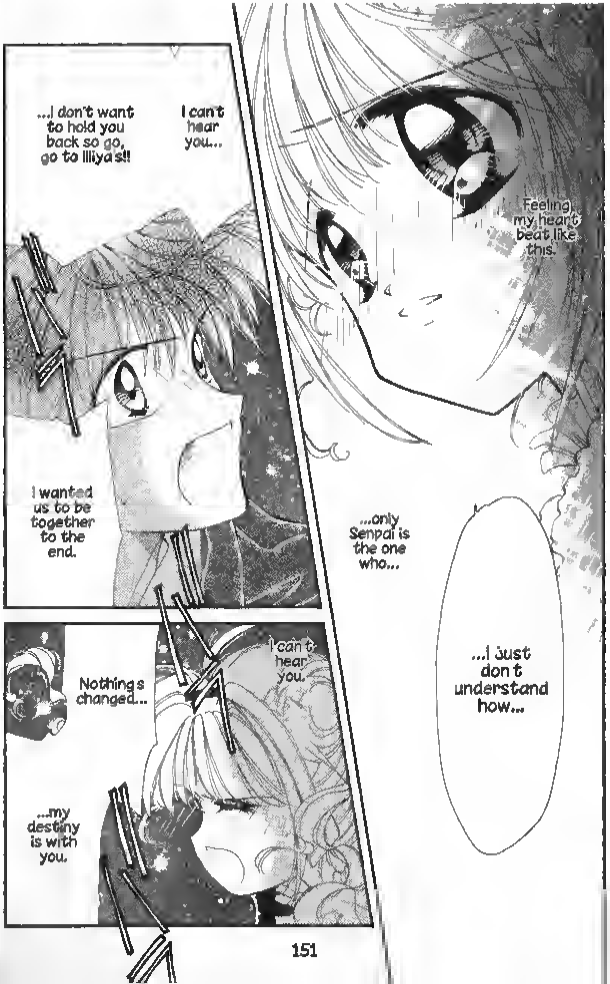
Don't come in here.

"Hell"? What's a hell?
Over there
I told you that WASN'T true!!
Hey!
Wait!

Special thanks to
Miyuki Okazaki
Miwa Ishioka

To Harumi Minami-
congratulations on your
marriage!

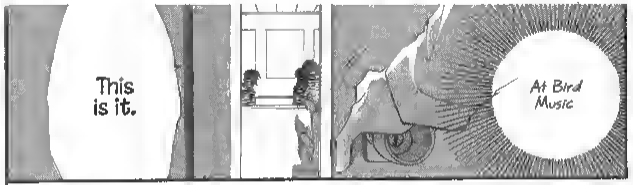
So you're okay with all that?
What are you saying?
All that stuff before
He said to go...
Wait a...?
Senpai...
So you don't *care* if I'm not around anymore!!


...I don't want to hold you back so go, go to Illiyas!!
I can't hear you...
Feeling my heart beat like this.
I wanted us to be together to the end.
...only Senpai is the one who...
...I just don't understand how...
Nothing's changed...
I can't hear you.
...my destiny is with you.

You've got Yuka now, so you don't need me anymore, I guess...
What's that?
I can't hear well here
...so you left me alone when I needed you.
You! With that happening at the stadium concert...
...Don't you think that started it?
Senpai, listen to me. You weren't there then.
I was...
...I was... I felt...
...that no matter what...

My destiny...

...I haven't forgotten ...
...
I said that. I made a promise.
Please hear me
Even now.
Oh, this feeling
I...
Since discovering you...
...I haven't been afraid of a single thing because I had you.
...wanted to build a future with you.


This is it.
At Bird Music

"Transfer money?!"
At this time we have set aside this sum as transfer money.
That's a deposit
Moto-

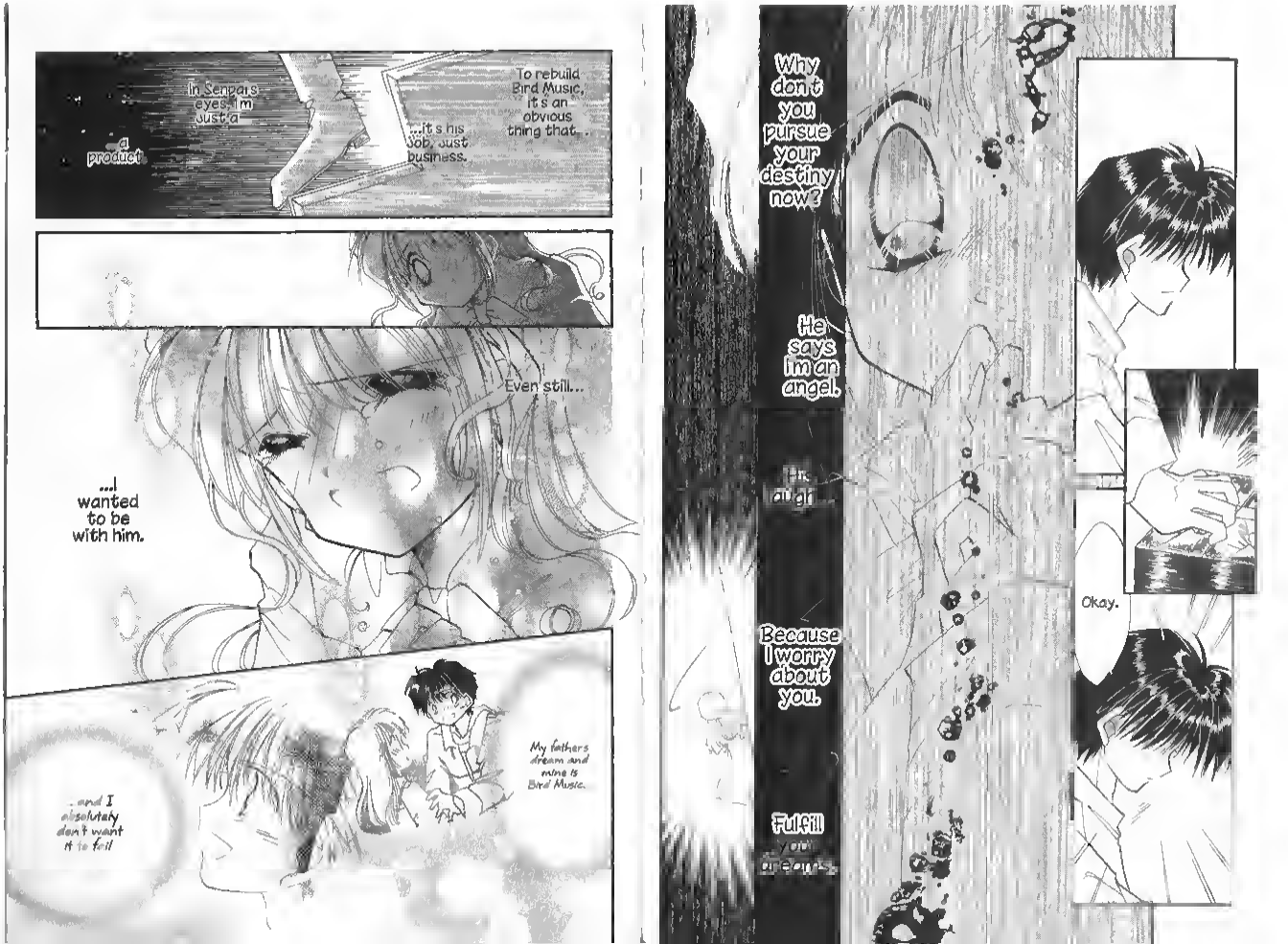
. .our desire to have her join us at Gaia Productions.
Please convey to Mink...

...don't agree to it.
No, Senpai...
Excuse me, but wouldn't this give Bird Music the financial security it needs to keep from closing?
Gaia is Illya's

...until that
I hadn't heard a word he said
even now
It's okay, this won't change
...our destiny...
...is here.

That I will always..
...be here for him.

I have to apologize
Bird Music, LLC
And then TODAY I'll tell him...


In Senpai's eyes, I'm just a product
To rebuild Bird Music, it's an obvious thing that...
...it's his job, just business.
Even still...
...I wanted to be with him.
My father's dream and mine is Bird Music.
...and I absolutely don't want it to fail
Why don't you pursue your destiny now?
He says I'm an angel.
Because I worry about you.
Okay.

...BUT...
...and I don't plan on holding her back...
Mink and everyone around me is hoping for the move....

Where do you want me...
...to stick that?!

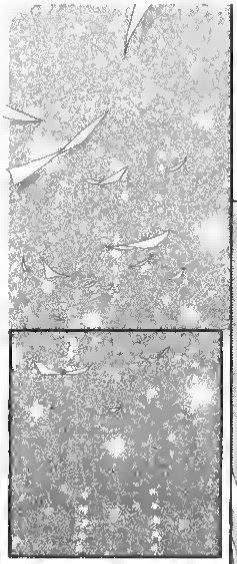
!? It's true that if I'd Music will succeed...
...if I leave...
...then that's the least I can do for Senpai.

Would you mind...
...if we walk?
Let's.
I wonder if it's about the move...
Uh-huh, is it important ...?
Wha...

Double scoop
I have a major sweet- tooth.

Sure, if you'd like.
Please.

Let's eat that.
Iliya, you said you had something important to discuss.



I'm sorry to call you out of the blue.

She's my diamond, and you can't put a price on her.
I'm the one who discovered her.
I don't plan on holding her for money ...
... absolutely not!!

So much has happened, that I forgot...
A whole year has gone by.
My debut.
No, I won't forget any of it...
...The lights overflowing the stage and illuminating the sky..
PAT
There's only one thing that has changed because of all this glamour...

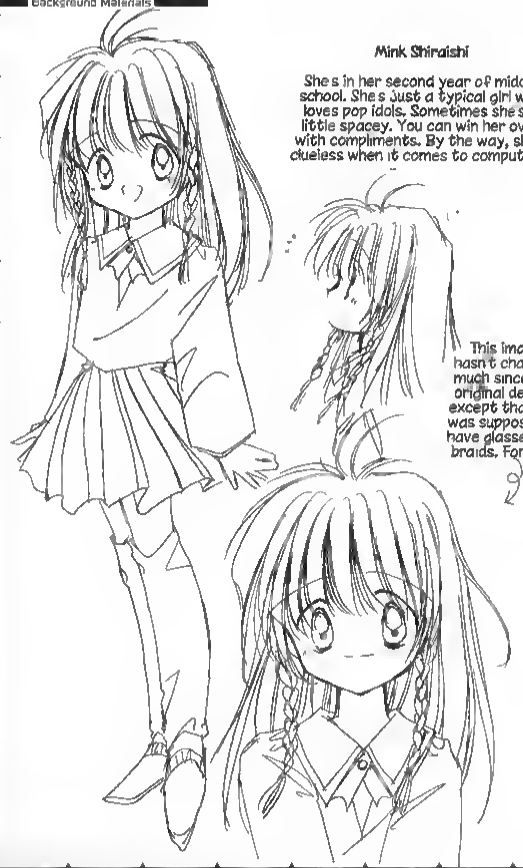
It's so clean and pretty!
It's been a year since your debut...
Went by in a wink didn't it?
This is the first snow of the season.
Isn't it?
Hey?
It was just last Christmas
Yeah.

Publisher "Nakayoshi" August – December 2000

Continue in Volume 4.

Mink Shiraishi

She's in her second year of middle school. She's just a typical girl who loves pop idols. Sometimes she's a little spacey. You can win her over with compliments. By the way, she's clueless when it comes to computers.

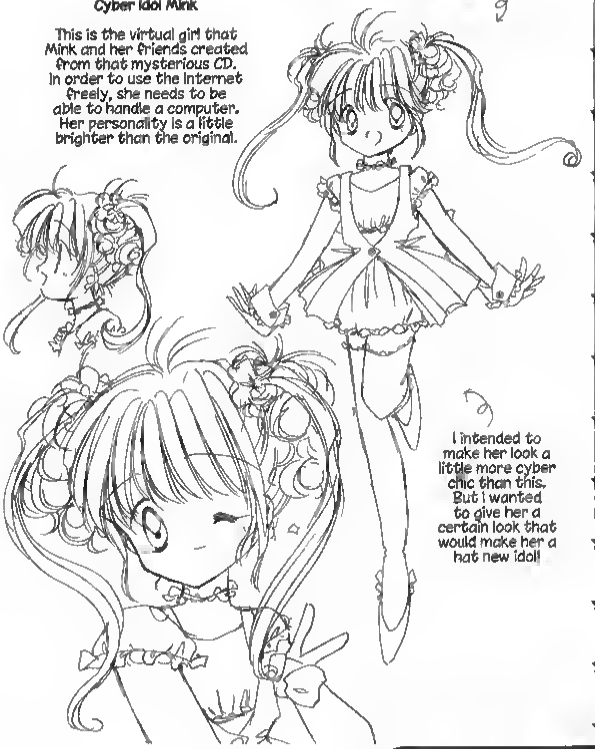


This image hasn't changed much since the original design, except that she was supposed to have glasses and braids. For real!

Cyber Idol Mink

This is the virtual girl that Mink and her friends created from that mysterious CD. In order to use the Internet freely, she needs to be able to handle a computer. Her personality is a little brighter than the original.

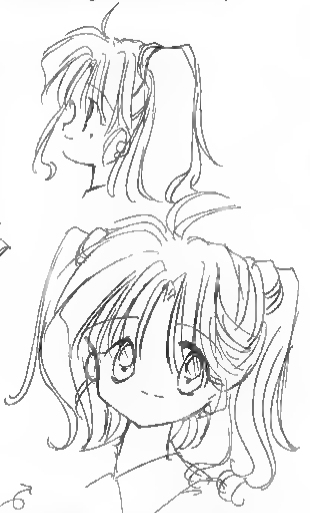
This is almost the same as it is now, don't you think? Her original design had shorter hair than this.



I intended to make her look a little more cyber chic than this. But I wanted to give her a certain look that would make her a hot new idol!

Mahoko Itazaki

Mink's classmate and a real entertainment buff. Originally, she was supposed to be an assistant with a can-do personality, who doesn't like to hear the word "no." She adores her older brother so much she's kind of got a "brother complex."

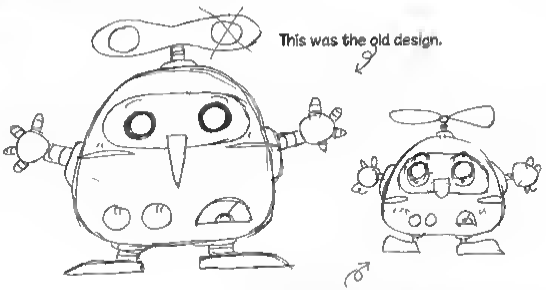


I didn't intend for Mahoko and Motoharu to be siblings. Mahoko didn't seem to make as strong of an impression as Kanoka, so we decided to make them brother and sister to add interest. But where did that "brother complex" come from? Well, we were afraid she'd pick on Mink if we kept it in.

Matoharu Izaki

He's in his second year at the high school on Mink's campus. He's also Mahoko's older brother. Originally, he always get cuts and bruises from his part-time job as a bike messenger, but I'd like to think of him as a strong guy!

I made Motoharu a talent agent right before we went to press. The reason why his last name is different is because we thought of the company name afterward. Anything like "Itazaki Planning" sounded too formal so we picked "Bird Music," and then matched it with the last name "Toriumi" which means "Bird Sea."

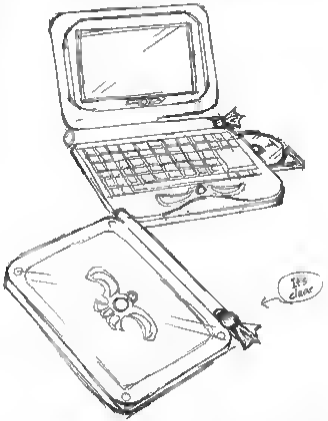


This was the old design.

This looks like the current one. "Om" is short for "O-musubi" or "rice ball" in Japanese. My apologies for such a boring explanation! I'd like to thank all the people who gave various reasons for this name, including the ones in French. It's just because he's round—I'm sorry!

Om (a nickname)

This is Mink's pet robot. He's the WANNA-BE guide inside Mink's desktop. Now, he can actually take form. Those things on top of his head are not handles for winding him up, but propellers. So, when he flies through the air, he retracts his limbs so his shape looks just like a rice ball.



This is Kanoka's PC. I designed it. It started out a little fancier, didn't it?

Kanoka Moriyama

Mink's classmate and a computer whiz. She's a no-nonsense kind of gal! She dislikes miscommunication and cannot forgive people for acting up.

Kanoka isn't much different from our original plan. The boss liked this haircut.

COMING SOON!

電脳少女☆ Mink

VOLUME 4

Right before Mink appears live for her first-ever televised Platinum Disk Contest--her fans turn on her. Rumor has it that gossip columnist extraordinaire, Johnny Hotta, has been spreading some serious lies--saying that Mink has *stolen* super-idol Illiya. (As if!) To make matters worse--Motoharu gets into an accident while protecting Mink from the paparazzi! Mink's left to fend for herself against Kyo J. Falwell (a.k.a. creepy creator of WANNA-BE software), who threatens to reveal Mink's true identity unless she helps him control the Present. Just when you think this page-turner couldn't get any more twisted, Kyo morphs Mink's two best friends and pilots Mink's career into a direction you would never imagine!

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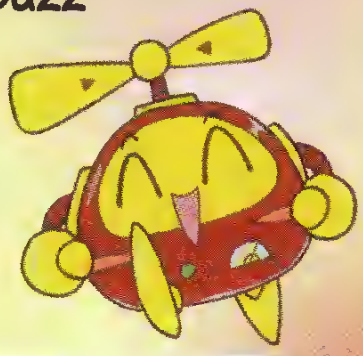
MINK™

Things had been going great for Cyber Idol Mink and her manager, Motoharu. But when Motoharu decides to represent a new recording star, his lack of attention makes Mink feel like yesterday's news. Her future turns shakier with the 411 about super-charismatic Illiya's latest pop plan--the Illiya CD label! With Illiya's company splashed all over the press, the buzz is that Mink will leave behind her "It" girl days with Motoharu for a life less ordinary with Illiya!



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